

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Framework

		Levels of Influence*			
		Individual	Interpersonal	Community	Societal
Domains of Influence <i>(Over the Lifecourse)</i>	Biological	Biological Vulnerability and Mechanisms	Caregiver–Child Interaction Family Microbiome	Community Illness Exposure Herd Immunity	Sanitation Immunization Pathogen Exposure
	Behavioral	Health Behaviors Coping Strategies	Family Functioning School/Work Functioning	Community Functioning	Policies and Laws
	Physical/Built Environment	Personal Environment	Household Environment School/Work Environment	Community Environment Community Resources	Societal Structure
	Sociocultural Environment	Sociodemographics Limited English Cultural Identity Response to Discrimination	Social Networks Family/Peer Norms Interpersonal Discrimination	Community Norms Local Structural Discrimination	Social Norms Societal Structural Discrimination
	Health Care System	Insurance Coverage Health Literacy Treatment Preferences	Patient–Clinician Relationship Medical Decision-Making	Availability of Services Safety Net Services	Quality of Care Health Care Policies
Health Outcomes		 Individual Health	 Family/ Organizational Health	 Community Health	 Population Health

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, 2025

*NIH-designated Populations with Health Disparities: Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups (defined by OMB Directive 15),

People with Lower Socioeconomic Status, Underserved Rural Populations, People with Disabilities, Sexual Minority Populations

NIMHD Research Framework

The NIMHD Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Framework reflects an evolving conceptualization of factors relevant to the understanding and promotion of minority health and to the understanding and reduction of health disparities. The framework serves as a vehicle for encouraging NIMHD- and NIH-supported research that addresses the complex and multi-faceted nature of minority health and health disparities, including research that spans different domains of influence (Biological, Behavioral, Physical/Built Environment, Sociocultural Environment, Healthcare System) as well as different levels of influence (Individual, Interpersonal, Community, Societal) within those domains. The framework also provides a classification structure that facilitates analysis of the NIMHD and NIH minority health and health disparities research portfolios to assess progress, gaps, and opportunities. Examples of factors are provided within each cell of the framework (e.g., Family Microbiome within the Interpersonal-Biological cell). These factors are not intended to be exhaustive. Health disparity populations, as well as other features of this framework, may be adjusted over time.